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TUNISIA: Bourguiba apparently intends to resume an active political role. [REDACTED]

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25X1 TUNISIA: PRESIDENT BOURGUIBA'S APPARENT INTENTION TO RESUME AN ACTIVE POLITICAL ROLE MAY SERVE TO DELAY FURTHER THE ALREADY LAGGING CONSTITUTIONAL REVISIONS.

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25X1 HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR. TOLD THE US AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS LAST WEDNESDAY, [REDACTED] THAT THE PAST FEW WEEKS IN SWITZERLAND HAD BROUGHT A "REMARKABLE TRANSFORMATION" IN THE PRESIDENT'S HEALTH AND THAT HE WAS NOW CONTEMPLATING WHAT ROLE HE SHOULD PLAY WHEN HE EVENTUALLY RETURNED TO TUNISIA. THE SON ADDED THAT HIS FATHER WOULD TAKE A MORE ACTIVE PART THAN "CERTAIN AMBITIOUS POLITICIANS" ANTICIPATED. HE EXPECTED THAT ALTHOUGH HIS FATHER WOULD NOT INJECT HIMSELF INTO ALL DETAILS HE WOULD DISCUSS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT PROPOSALS IN DEPTH WITH THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AS WELL AS WITH GOVERNMENT AND PARTY LEADERS.

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25X1 AMONG THE PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS, WHICH ARE STILL UNDER STUDY BY AN ASSEMBLY COMMISSION, IS ONE THAT CHANGES THE PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION. IT CALLS FOR THE ASSEMBLY PRESIDENT TO TAKE THE OFFICE TEMPORARILY UNTIL NATIONAL ELECTIONS ARE HELD WITHIN A MONTH TO SELECT A NEW PRESIDENT. UNDER PRESENT LAW, THE PRIME MINISTER SUCCEEDS TO THE REMAINDER OF AN UNEXPIRED TERM--BOURGUIBA'S RUNS UNTIL NOVEMBER 1974.

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